Beginning the Tenth Year.

PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS.

March 25. 1674.

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The Preface to the Tenth *Year of theſe Tracts.*

UNder the favourable Countenance of thoſe *Worthies* who are addicted to the *Advancement of Arts and Sciences*, I hold on my reſolutions by Gods aſſiſtance, To endeavour the publiſhing a *Ninth Volume of Philoſophical Communications*, in this *Tenth* year of my undertakings of this kind, beginning an

other *Century* in this preſent *March:* My *firſt* Volume containing the *two firſt* years, as partly interrupted by our *public* Calamities, and part of the time laid out for *Inſtructions* and *Exemplars* to prepare and incline our generous Correſpondents, to adhere cloſely to the Truth of Nature by faithful Experiments, and to evidence of matter of fact in their Hiſtorical Narrations.

And I ſhall not here take much notice of the Obſtructions and Diſcouragements, that *have been* and *are* caſt in our way by the Malevolent, they being ſufficiently puniſh't by this, that they exclude themſelves from the knowledge of *Gods admirable Works* and of *ingenious Inventions.*

Mean while, the *Virtuoſi* may encourage themſelves and receive ſatisfaction from that noble *Elogy,* which was long ago provided for them by the elegant Poet *Claudian;*

Ipſa quidem VIRTUS precium ſibi, Solàq; laté
Fortunæ ſecura nitet, nec faſcibus ullis
Erigitur, plauſúve petit clareſcere vulgi;
Nil opis externæ cupiens, nil indiga laudis,
Divitiis animoſa ſuis, immotâque cunctis
Caſibus, ex alta mortalia deſpicit arce:
Attamen invitam blandè veſtigat, & ultrò
Ambit honor——

De Conſulatu Mallii Theodori Panegyris.

The very ſame, in effect, with a more antient and a more genial Poet, *(Horace,)* tuned to his Lyre, in the age, and in the ear, and with the high applauſe of great *Auguſtus Cæſar;*

Virtus, repulſæ neſcia ſordidæ,
Intaminatis fulget honoribus,
Nec ſumit, aut ponit ſecures,
Arbitrio popularis auræ.
Virtus, recludens immeritis mori
Cælum, negatâ tentat iter viâ,
Cætúſque vulgares, & udam
Spernit humum, fugiente pennâ.

Carm. l. 3. Ode 2.

And an other, *(Ovid)* in few words, lays down the grounds and withall the final unſucceſsfulneſs, of all our adverſaries calumnies and rallieries;

Paſcitur in vivis *Livor, poſt fata quieſcit;*
Tunc *ſuus ex merito quemque tuetur Honos.*

L. 1. Amor.

And

And the Prince of Latin Poets, *Virgil*, ſaw amongſt his *Heroes* in his flowry *Elyſium*, the Valiant for their Countrey, the Eloquent, and the Inventors of Arts for humane Accomodations, and thoſe who purchaſed laſting Honor by real merit: Theſe, he ſaw there crown'd with Garlands as white as ſnow:

Heic manus, ob patriam pugnando vulnera paſſi;
Quique pii Vates, & Phœbo digna locuti;
Inventas aut qui vitam excoluêre per Artes,
Quique ſui memores alios fecêre merendo:
Omnibus his niveâ cinguntur tempora vittâ.

Æneid. 6. v. 660.

Theſe old Eloges do juſtly belong to our Noble Friends and worthy Correſpondents, who do ſpend ſo much of their Lives, and Labors, (and ſome their Treaſures alſo,) to oblige even the ungrateful, and their yet unborn Poſterity.

Now I go on chearfully and with a reſolved mind, beginning with

A Letter, not long ſince written to the Publiſher by an Experienced perſon reſiding at Amſterdam, *containing a true Deſcription of* Nova Zembla, *together with an intimation of the advantage of its ſhape and poſition.*

SIR,

I Herewith ſend you what I have received out of *Muſcovy*, which is a New Mapp of *Nova Zembla* and *Weigats*, as it hath been diſcover'd by the expreſs order of the *Czar*; and drawn by a Painter, called *Panelapoetſki*, who ſent it me from *Moſco* for a preſent: By which it appears, That *Nova Zembla* is not an Iſland, as hitherto it hath been believed to be; and that the *Mare glaciale* is not a Sea, but a *Sinus* or Bay, the waters whereof are ſweet. Which is the ſame with what the *Tartars* do alſo aſſure us, who have taſted thoſe waters in the very midſt of the *Sinus*. The *Samojeds* as well as the *Tartars* do unanimouſly affirm, that paſſing on the back of *Nova Zembla*, at a conſiderable diſtance from the ſhore, Navigators may well paſs as far as *Japan*. And 'tis a great fault in the *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, that ſeeking to get to *Japan* on the South-ſide of *Nova Zembla*, they have almoſt always paſſed the *Weigats*. The letter *O* in the great